

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-29 have been examined, claims 1, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 are rejected, and claims 2-19, 23, 25, 28 and 29 are objected to. In the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-7, 12-14, 16, 17, 20-29 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled. Therefore, after entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 2 and 4-29 will be pending in this application. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Objected to Claims 2-19, 23, 25, 28 and 29

Claims 2-19, 23, 25, 28 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 3. Claims 2 and 4-6 are dependent on claim 1. Claims 7 and 12 have each been rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of original base claim 1. Claims 8-11 and 14-21 are dependent on claim 7. Claim 13 is dependent on claim 12.

Independent claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 12. Claims 23 and 25 have each been rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of original base claim 22. Claim 24 is dependent on claim 23.

Independent claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 7.

Independent claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 12. Claims 28 and 29 have each been rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of original base claim 27.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 2 and 4-29 are now allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Oestreich (U.S. 2003/0003875) in view of Engstrom (U.S. Patent No. 6,639,934).

Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 3.

Claims 20 and 21 have been amended to be dependent on objected to claim 7, which has been rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of original base claim 1.

Claim 22 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 12.

Claim 24 has been amended to be dependent on objected to claim 23, which has been rewritten in independent form and including the limitations of original base claim 22.

Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 7.

Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of objected to claim 12.

Accordingly, the §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: /Eric Ho/
Eric Ho, Reg. No. 39,711
Phone No. (858)-658-2752

QUALCOMM Incorporated
Attn: Patent Department
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121-1714
Telephone: (858) 658-5787
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502